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OFFICIAL COMMENT

LSA Document #08-764 (Antidegradation)
MaryAnn Stevens, Rules Development Branch
Office of Legal Counsel
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
100 North Senate Ave.
MC 65-41
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251
Fax Number: (317) 233-5517

Dear Ms. Stevens,

I am writing to tell you my concern over the federally mandated water quality rule proposed for Indiana, which I believe falls short of adequately protecting Lake Michigan's water quality. I urge Indiana instead to improve the proposed antidegradation rule in order to uphold the highest level of protection for Lake Michigan's water quality. Lake Michigan is my backyard, I spend my summer swimming in the lake, I drink the water, and enjoy the wildlife. For these reasons and many more, I care deeply about this valuable resource. The water quality rule currently proposed for Indiana would prompt an antidegradation review only when the level of a pollutant poses a "detrimental effect"; this is a reactionary measure with harmful consequences rather than a preventative measure as the Clean Water Act intends. The water quality rule proposed for Indiana also includes several important exemptions such as the exclusion of phosphorus, sediment, and other significant pollutants known to impair water quality. In addition, it permits low-level pollution discharges for new pollutants, which combined can have significant consequences on water quality.

The current water quality rule proposed for Indiana is not acceptable as it prevents progress in improving water quality for Lake Michigan and I strongly encourage you to propose a more effective rule that upholds the highest level of protection for Lake Michigan's water quality. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christopher Daya